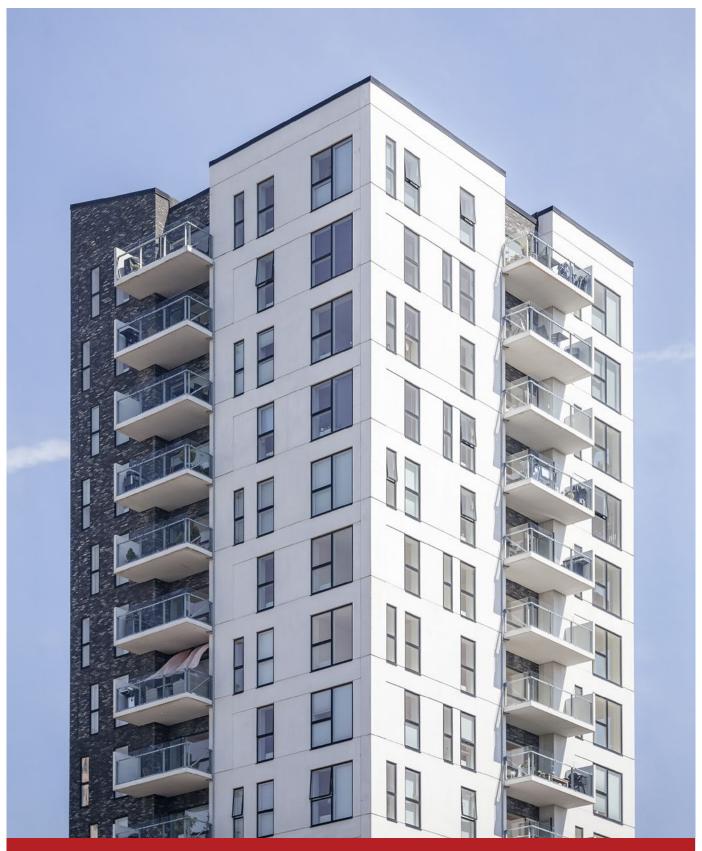
## REITS ASSOCIATION OF KENYA (RAK) NEWSLETTER



**16<sup>TH</sup> EDITION** DECEMBER 2024



NAVIGATING NEW FRONTIERS: UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF AFRICA'S REIT MARKET



#### Welcome Note from the RAK Chairman

elcome to the 16th edition of the RAK Newsletter! In this issue, we are excited to showcase the outcomes of the RAK 2024 Annual Conference, serving as an inspiring guide for future collaborations, policy initiatives and the advancement of REITs across Africa.

The REITs Association of Kenya is happy to report that the RAK 2024 Annual Conference themed, "Navigating New Frontiers: Unlocking the Potential of Africa's REIT Market" was a resounding success. The conference, held at Enashipai Resort & Spa from 30th October to 1st November, brought together a diverse group of delegates, including key industry leaders, policymakers, investors, real estate professionals, and service providers. Together, we explored the opportunities and transformative potential of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) across the African continent.

The conference went above and beyond expectations, not only achieving its core objectives but also sparking dynamic collaboration across the entire real estate ecosystem. The RAK 2024 Annual Conference emerged as a defining platform, offering deep insights into the world of REITs and paving the way for the sector's advancement.

Key discussions included:

## 1. Case studies of successful cross-border REITs and joint ventures in Africa.

- Innovative investment strategies that have driven growth within Africa's REIT industry.
- Strategic alignment of partners, the importance of regulatory compliance and how regional integration facilitates cross-border investments.

#### 2. Investment Opportunities and Asset Classes.

- Emerging trends and Innovative asset classes.
- · Key considerations for investors.

#### 3. Financing Strategies for REITs

- Innovative approaches to funding real estate investment trusts.
- Strategies for optimizing capital structure to enhance liquidity and support growth.

#### 4. Fostering Innovation and Technology Adoption

• Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, blockchain and their potential to revolutionize

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decision-making and operational processes within RFITs

• Successful case studies and strategies for overcoming barriers to technology adoption.

#### 5. Demystifying Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

- The critical role of PPPs in the real estate sector.
- Illustrations on how successful PPPs have transformed urban landscapes and revitalized communities.

#### 6. Role of Stock Exchanges in the REITs Market in Africa

- Role of stock exchanges in enhancing visibility, liquidity and overall growth of real estate investment trusts.
- Current state of African stock exchanges and how they facilitate REIT listings and attract investment.

#### 7. REITS unvarnished – Kenya context.

- Challenges Hindering the Growth of REITs in Kenya and Comparative Returns on REITs.
- Risk mitigation strategies.

#### 8. Legal Framework of REITs

- Overview of compliance requirements, tax implications and governance policies crucial to the successful operation of REITs.
- Key regulatory frameworks and their influence on investment strategies, capital formation and operational practices.

#### 9. Experiences of REIT Incubatees Panel

• The challenges and triumphs so far of REIT Incubatees in building and scaling a REIT.

Through a series of these dynamic sessions and interactive forums, attendees engaged in rich, multifaceted discussions, deepening their understanding of REITs as pivotal drivers of regional development.

Keynote addresses by global industry leaders Steve Wechsler, CEO of NAREIT, and Dominique Moerenhout, CEO of EPRA, were standout moments. They delivered compelling insights



into global REIT trends, showcasing how the sector is adapting to evolving economic landscapes and investor expectations. Their discussions underscored the immense opportunities within Africa's REIT market, fueled by rapid urbanization and a rapidly developing middle class poised to drive sustained real estate growth.

Professor Morris of the REIT Academy delivered an incisive presentation on the scalability and versatility of the REIT structure, highlighting its ability to support diversified portfolios attractive to both institutional and retail investors. He also examined current trends reshaping the sector, including the growing emphasis on sustainable, green investments and the transformative impact of digital integration in real estate.

Adding a continental perspective, Mr. Norredine Tahiri, a distinguished figure in Morocco's financial landscape, charted the impressive growth trajectory of OPCIs in his country. He outlined key milestones, challenges, and strategic next steps to bolster market resilience and global appeal. Since the issuance of the first OPCI licenses five years ago, Morocco has achieved a remarkable 60 licensed OPCIs, with new approvals averaging over one per month. As of June 2024, OPCIs in Morocco boast a total net asset value of \$8.6 billion, contributing 20% to the nation's GDP. Looking ahead, the target is to reach \$20 billion in total assets, setting a bold benchmark for other African markets.

Ms. Christabel Shava, a trailblazer in Zimbabwe's REIT landscape, captivated the audience with the Tigere REIT success story. Her presentation illustrated the scalable potential of the Tigere model for replication across African markets. Currently valued at \$33.8 million, REIT is on track to expand its portfolio to \$60 million by 2026 and \$100 million within five years. This ambitious growth is underpinned by



strong institutional partnerships, strategic acquisitions of low-risk, income-generating assets, and a commitment to sustainable investment practices. Tigere REIT's journey offers actionable insights for other emerging markets seeking to establish robust REIT frameworks.

Collaborative initiatives and strategies to unlock investment opportunities in African real estate were a focal point of discussions. A comprehensive program of presentations, panel discussions, interactive Q&A sessions, and insights from the REIT Toolkit & Incubator initiative ensured robust knowledge exchange and the formation of impactful partnerships. Networking opportunities were seamlessly integrated, including an elegant opening cocktail reception, a gala dinner on day one, and a picturesque excursion to Crescent Island on day two. These moments allowed participants to forge meaningful connections, enhancing camaraderie and collaboration among industry stakeholders. In essence, the event not only illuminated the transformative potential of REITs in Africa but also laid the groundwork for strategic



advancements that could redefine the continent's real estate market.

In addition, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to each of our distinguished sponsors whose invaluable contributions were instrumental to the success of the REITs Association of Kenya's Annual Conference. Our Platinum sponsor; Stanbic Bank, Gold Sponsor; Mboya Wangongu & Waiyaki Advocates, Silver Sponsors; Mi Vida Homes and TripleOKLaw LLP, Knowledge Sponsors; Acorn Holdings Ltd, LapTrust Imara I-REIT and Co-operative Bank of Kenya, Lanyard Sponsor; Nairobi Securities Exchange, Gala Dinner Drink Sponsor; East African Breweries Limited and our Industry Partners; Capital Markets Authority, Dyer & Blair, ILAM Fahari I-REIT, International Housing Solutions-Kenya, NCBA Bank Kenya and TRIFIC.

Your sponsorship and support extend beyond this event, representing a strategic investment in the growth and advancement of the REITs ecosystem across the African region. This partnership signifies a shared commitment to innovation, progress and sustainability within the real estate investment landscape. Our 16th Edition Newsletter is dedicated to acknowledging and celebrating your invaluable support and

commitment.

I would also like to extend our heartfelt commendation to all participants and speakers for their steadfast support, which played a crucial role in making the **RAK** 

2024 Annual Conference a remarkable success. Together, we are poised to realize our shared vision of unlocking the immense potential of Real Estate Investment Trusts across Africa. Discover more about the event by clicking this link (Conference Booklet).

As the year draws to a close, let me take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Thank you and Enjoy the Read!

Geoffrey Odundo, RAK CHAIRMAN



# RAK 2024 Annual Conference Sponsors

## **Platinum Sponsor**

#### Stanbic Bank Kenya

Stanbic Bank Kenya Limited is a corporate and retail bank licensed by the Central Bank of Kenya to provide banking services in the Kenyan economy. The bank is part of the Standard Bank Group a leading African financial services organization, which was founded more than 150 years ago and today has operations in 20 African countries and across the globe. Stanbic Bank Kenya Limited (as part of Stanbic Holdings Plc) is listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE).

As a leading Africa-focused financial services organization, Africa is our home, and we drive her growth.



## **Gold Sponsor**

#### Mboya Wangongu & Waiyaki Advocates

Mboya Wangong'u & Waiyaki Advocates is a leading law firm in Kenya. It is ranked as a top law firm by the International Financial Law Review (IFRL), Chambers Global Directory of Top Lawyers and The Legal 500. It is a leader in several practice areas including transactional legal services, capital markets, energy & projects, capital raising, real estate, banking & finance, estate planning & administration and commercial dispute resolution.

At Mboya Wangong'u & Waiyaki, we ensure clients get the personal attention they deserve. We deliver excellent service based on solid legal knowledge and global benchmarking. The Partners are highly skilled and experienced in their respective areas of practice. They are ably supported by an experienced and gifted team of associates and legal assistants. Our clients are in a cross-section of industries including banking, energy, mining, financial services, health care, manufacturing, insurance, private equity, real estate, telecommunications, media and technology. We also act for government agencies in appropriate cases.



## **Silver Sponsor**

#### **Mi Vida Homes**

#### **About Mi Vida**

Mi Vida is a premier institutional homebuilder and provider of real estate investment solutions, born from a Ksh 12 billion joint venture between Actis, a leading growth market investor across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate, the real estate arm of one of India's largest construction conglomerates. With a global presence in over 70 countries and ongoing projects in 15 African nations, this partnership brings over 220 years of combined expertise in real estate development.

At Mi Vida, we are committed to delivering quality housing that meets modern needs. Currently, we offer five remarkable residential projects, with two completed and three upcoming. Across all developments, Mi Vida maintains a dedication to quality, affordability, and sustainability, ensuring value for both residents and investors.

#### **Upcoming Projects:**

#### 1. Amaiya Garden City

Amaiya Garden City is a continuation of the innovative living experience introduced by Mi Vida Garden City Phase 1. The project includes luxurious 1- and 2-bedroom duplexes and elegantly designed 3-bedroom apartments, complete with premium amenities.

#### 2. 237 Garden City

237 Garden City provides a unique and affordable investment opportunity with studios, 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. Positioned as an entry point into the prestigious Garden City development, this project offers unmatched value.

#### 3. KEZA - Riruta

Located just 100 meters from the Ndwaru/Naivasha Road Junction, KEZA by Mi Vida offers an exceptional investment opportunity. Spanning 4.5 acres and centered around a lush green park with recreational facilities, KEZA Riruta is designed to be the area's only urban oasis, providing a perfect balance of nature and modern living.

#### 4. KEZA - Laika Ruaka

KEZA Laika by Mi Vida transforms Ruaka's landscape with a mix of sophistication and affordability. This development

offers contemporary 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom apartments starting at KES 4.8 million. Set within 3.7 acres of landscaped gardens, KEZA Laika features a unique fruit tree orchard, creating a serene environment that enhances both aesthetics and well-being.

#### **Commitment to Excellence**

Mi Vida was created to address critical issues in the housing sector, focusing on quality, affordability, and timely delivery. Our projects embody these values, providing sustainable and attractive living solutions for today's homebuyers and investors

For more information, visit www.mividahomes.com or call +254 722 123 000.



## **Silver Sponsor**

#### **TripleOkLaw**

We are the leading legal adviser for real estate investment trusts (REITs) in Kenya. We have represented and continue to advise 3 of the 4 authorized REITs in the country, which include several "first-of-their-kind" transactions. Our firm provides exceptional corporate and commercial law services that enable clients to navigate the complex business landscape with ease and confidence. Our team of skilled lawyers offer personalized legal support adapted to the unique needs of clients.

Our expertise spans various sectors such as construction, financial services, health and life sciences, and manufacturing, making us a trusted partner for a diverse array of clients, from startups and SMEs to large multinational corporations. Our deep understanding of the industries enables us to offer insightful and practical advice, empowering businesses to thrive in today's fast-paced and competitive environment.

With a comprehensive suite of corporate and commercial law services, our dedicated team is committed to delivering top-quality legal advice with an innovative mindset. We help you stay one step ahead, enabling you to tackle challenges head-on and seize opportunities as they arise.



## **Knowledge Partners**

#### **Co-operative Bank of Kenya**

The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Limited is incorporated in Kenya under the Company Act and is also licensed to do the business of banking under the Banking Act.

The Bank was initially registered under the Co-operative Societies Act at the point of founding in 1965. Our Vision is to be the dominant bank in Kenya and the region, riding on the unique Co-operative Model providing innovative financial solutions for distinctive customer experience and our Mission is to offer a wide range of innovative financial solutions leveraging on our heavy investment in multi-channels, national and regional presence and with a focus on excellent customer experience by a highly motivated and talented team.



#### **Acorn Holdings Limited**

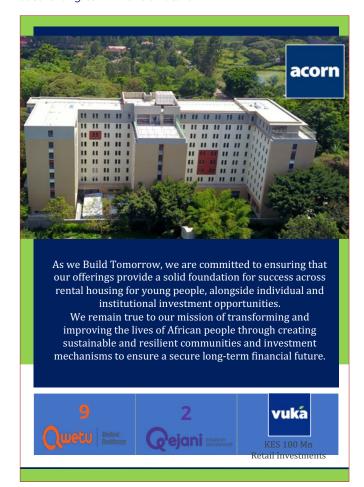
Acorn Holdings Limited is the premier developer, operator, and asset manager of rental housing in Sub-Saharan Africa. Acorn is a pioneer of rental housing in Africa through its provision of Purpose-Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) under its flagship Qwetu brand, and new budget friendly brand, Qejani. With 9 properties across Nairobi and counting, the company is the largest institutional investor in rental housing in East and Central Africa.

Acorn Investment Management Limited (AIML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Acorn Holdings Limited and is duly licensed as a REIT Manager by the Capital Markets Authority of Kenya (CMA). AIML serves as the REIT Manager to the Acorn Student Accommodation Development Real Estate Investment Trust (ASA D-REIT) and Acorn Student Accommodation Investment Real Estate Investment Trust (ASA I-REIT), launched in February 2021.

AIML pursues an active investment management strategy aimed at delivering superior returns to our unitholders compared to other asset classes. The ASA REITs have offered institutional investors an opportunity to participate in the long-term growth story of providing underserved students safe, affordable, and quality housing.

As they Build Tomorrow, Acorn is committed to ensuring that their offerings provide a solid foundation for success across rental housing for young people, alongside individual and institutional investment opportunities.

They remain true to their mission of transforming and improving the lives of African people through creating sustainable and resilient communities and investment mechanisms to ensure a secure long-term financial future.



#### **Laptrust Imara I-REIT**

The Lap Trust Imara I-REIT is a restricted closed-ended Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) listed on the Restricted Sub Segment of the Main Investment Market of the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE). As a closed-ended fund, people wishing to invest in Lap Trust Imara I-REIT shall effect such investments by purchasing the REIT Securities in the secondary market.



## **Lanyard Sponsor**

#### **Nairobi Securities Exchange**

The Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) is a leading African Exchange, based in Kenya, one of the fastest-growing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. Founded in 1954, NSE has a six-decade heritage in listing equity and debt securities. It offers a world class trading facility for local and international investors looking to gain exposure to Kenya and Africa's economic growth.

Its board and management team are comprised of some of Africa's leading capital markets professionals, who are focused on innovation, diversification and operational excellence in the Exchange.

NSE is playing a vital role in the growth of Kenya's economy by encouraging savings and investment, as well as helping local and international companies access cost-effective capital. NSE operates under the jurisdiction of the Capital Markets Authority of Kenya. It is a full member of the World Federation of Exchange, a founder member of the African Securities Exchanges Association (ASEA) and the East African Securities Exchanges Association (EASEA). The NSE is a member of the Association of Futures Market and is a partner exchange in the United Nations led SSE initiative.



## **Industry Partners**

#### **Capital Markets Authority**

The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) is an independent public agency established by an Act of Parliament, Cap 485 A under the National Treasury and Economic Planning. CMA is charged with the prime responsibility of supervising, licensing and monitoring the activities of market intermediaries, including the Stock Exchange and the Central Depository and Settlement Corporation (CDSC). It also regulates all licensees under the Capital Markets Act, including Online Forex, Commodities and Regulated Exchanges. The Authority plays a critical role in the economy by facilitating mobilization and allocation of capital to finance long term investments.



Promoting the Integrity and Growth of the Capital Markets

#### **ILAM Fahari**

ICEA LION Asset Management has been providing investment management services across East Africa since 1985 to our quality client base which includes Retirement Schemes, Insurance Companies, Trusts and Endowment, Corporates, Saccos, Chamas, Welfare Group and Individuals. ILAM was originally registered as a Fund Manager in 1985 as Employees Benefits Trustees Limited and has undergone several name changes prior to the current ICEA LION Asset Management Limited.

We therefore have 39 years' experience in fund management, making us one of the oldest fund managers in Kenya and East Africa

#### **Business areas**

We are a multi-asset manager licensed by Capital Markets Authority and Retirement Benefits Authority. ILAM offers the following fund management services:

- Management of all types of pension portfolios including: discretionary or separate account pensions (both DB and DC), umbrella pensions, guaranteed pension schemes, Individual pension plans
- 2. Management of collective investment schemes (CIS)
- 3. Specialized Funds Management
- 4. Private Wealth Management
- 5. Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT) Management
- 6. Corporate Assets Management/ Balance sheet assets management
- 7. Insurance Assets Management
- 8. Property Investment Advisory Services
- 9. Offshore Investment Plans

Talk to ICEA LION Asset Management for a plan that is right for you.



#### PLANS TO KEEP YOUR INVESTMENTS GROWING

- 1. Unit Trust Funds
  - Money Market Fund
  - USD Fixed Income Fund
- Balanced Fund
- Equity Fund
- 2. Private Wealth Management

#### PLANS FOR SECURING YOUR GOLDEN YEARS

- 1. Retirement Plan for you and your employees
- 2. Income Drawdown Plan for your post retirement income

Talk to ICEA LION Asset Management for a Plan that is right for you.

ICEA LION Centre, Riverside Park, Chiromo Road, Westlands P.o Box 46143-00100, Nairobi, Kenya 020 275 0000 / +254 719 071999 investment@icaslico.com I'VE GOT A PLAN

#### **Dyer & Blair**

Dyer & Blair Investment Bank Limited was established in 1954 and was a founder member of the Nairobi Stock Exchange (now Nairobi Securities Exchange). Dyer & Blair is licensed by the Capital Markets Authority to provide transaction advisory services as an Investment Bank. Dyer & Blair is also licensed by the Institute of Certified Investment and Financial Analysts to provide investment advisory services as a Practicing Firm.

Dyer and Blair's principal activities are Investment Banking (Advisory and Financing Services), Brokerage (Equity and Fixed Income products) and Asset/Wealth Management. Our investmentbanking expertises pansacross key sectors including financial institutions, agriculture, industrials, consumer/retail, energy, utilities, infrastructure, telecommunications and technology just to mention a few.



but don't know where to begin?

Dyer & Blair has significant experience structuring REITs as a Transaction Advisor and will be able to guide you through the process

Get in touch with us today!

Email: corporate@dyerandblair.com Tel: 0709 930 000

#### **NCBA**

NCBA Bank Kenya PLC has harnessed the power of both NIC and CBA to create a bank that brings together the best of both worlds, from cutting edge mobile banking to good old-fashioned relationship management; from scalable business banking to financial services that grow as your business does; from best-in-class choice of products to investment solutions tailored to your specific needs. Our extensive branch network and friendly service mean that you are part of the most universal yet personal bank in East Africa.

We still hold personal relationships at the heart of everything we do. Because we believe that truly great relationships are built on each other's success and that greatness is not some rare gift but is achieved one step at a time. We put the long-term interest of the customers and the communities first. We are the bank that will support Kenya's and the region's economic growth aspirations.

We have introduced NCBA Trustee Services supporting Unit Trust Schemes and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). With technology driven compliance enhancements coupled with industry leadership in collective investment set-up, we are here to support your growth. If you are thinking of setting up a REIT, a Unit Trust Scheme or some other collective investment solution, speak to us to assist you realize this dream.

Welcome to the bank that banks on your ambition. Welcome to the Bank that says "Go For It".

Welcome to NCBA.



#### **IHS Kenya**

At International Housing Solutions (IHS), we finance the development of energy efficient, affordable housing communities.

We recognize the need to both create viable housing investments and provide broader community infrastructure with easy access to schools, shops and work opportunities.

Established in 2005, the IHS Group is a pioneer in the green affordable housing sector and has built a strong reputation by successfully financing the construction and delivery of new homes while building sustainable communities. We have established long-term partnerships with key stakeholders, which allows us to bring together the necessary elements for creating successful investments in the affordable housing market. Furthermore, our relationships have enabled us to create a strong pipeline of prospective investments in the regions we operate in.



#### **TRIFIC**

Trific is the only services-focused Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Kenya, offering new and exciting prospects for global, regional, and Kenyan service-oriented business enterprises seeking a competitive and advantageous base to access international markets.

Spanning over 64 acres within Nairobi's prestigious diplomatic blue zone and with a further robust development capacity of 1.2 million square meters, TRIFIC provides global businesses and talent with a world-class environment to thrive, offering a world-class live-work-play ecosystem with grade A offices, residential, hospitality, and social amenities.



## **Photos/Gallery**















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